Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

No minutes until
1782. *Oct.* (9 present.)

Letter about a stone taken from "the tongue."

Dr. Bond reported that Sep. 30 R. Wells and J. Kaighn had delivered up the keys of the Silk Machines, and were ready to settle up accounts. Referred to the Treasurer.

A specimen of Epsoms salt (?) found "fossil" in Virginia, was exhibited and referred for analysis to Dr. Hutchinson.

1782. *Dec.* 20. (6 present.)

Ordered that the election be held at the University.

Dr. H. Williamson read a paper of Observations on the sea coast of North America.

Treasurer orderd to call on Mr. Coombs, and Mr Lukens and Mr. Clarkson for settlement of accounts and receipt of balances due the Society.

Treasurer desired to report on the state of the business respecting the Silk Society. He reported that he had applied to Mr. Wells, but that "Mr. Wells had started many difficulties in obtaining a meeting of the managers," until when those who possessed the effects would hold them.

On motion the Treasurer was directed in case of refusal, to commence action for recovery.

The Com. of 5 (see April 20, 1781) was then constituted of Rittenhouse, Ewing, Gray, Hutchinson and Williamson [Hence our Publication Committee], and they "were authorized to call on such members of the Society as they may find occasion to consult."

1783. *Jan.* 3. (*At the University.*)

ELECTION.

President, B. Franklin.
V. P., White, Bond, Ewing.
Coun. 3 *y.* Jefferson, Witherspoon, Duffield, Rittenhouse.
Treas., Hopkinson.
Secs., Hutchinson, Shiell, Davidson, Matlack.
Cur., Duffield, Gray, Eben. Hazard.

1783. *Jan.* 13. (21 present.)

Jefferson moved (Reed seconded) that Rittenhouse should make an Orrery to be presented to his Most Christian Majesty. Com. of three to carry this into effect.

Treasurer allowed £6. 5*sh.* 6*d* for certain expenses.

Janitor allowed 7 ·· 6 for every meeting he attended.

New members elected:—7.

1783. *Feby* [ ]. (3 present.) Adjournment after conversation.

1783. *March* 6. (8 present.)

Rittenhouse will make an Orrery. Peter Miller's description of the Grotto of Sweetara.

Supposed discovery of a Tea plant, by Messrs. Steinemetz. H. C. Flagg's observations on the Torporific eel.

Rittenhouse proposed that the Society's Library be made useful by removal to some member's house who should act as Librarian.

Messrs. Stonemetz [*sic*] informed that "the Society are obliged by communications of useful discoveries but do not, in any case, pledge the reputation of the Society for the use or application of such discoveries."

Curators of the Cabinet requested to report.

Treasurer to pay the doorkeeper £2 ·· 13.

1783. *April* 4. (7 present.)

Wells & Kaighn's account of balance of stock and remaining utensils of the late Silk Society presented, and a com. appointed to settle the affair.

Curators reported, and were on motion instructed to take immediate measures for "preserving" "the natural curiosities" "from further decay."

1783. *April* 10. (14 present.)

Mr. Hopkinson reported that he had examined a house in Fifth Street suitable to receive the Library and Cabinet.

Com. of two to review said house and enquire of the Trustees of the University at what rent it may be had.

"*Resolved,* that the said gentlemen [Hopkinson & Rittenhouse & Hazard] be directed and empowered to sell a building in the State House yard belonging to this Society."

1783. *May* 2. (8 present.)

Letters, &c., ... On a specimen of petrified pine, by J. McHenry.

On the Aurora Borealis, by Revd J. Belknap.

On the Aurora of Oct. 31, 1779, by J. Page.

1783. *May* 16. (7 present.)

Hopkinson read an account from the Treasurer of the Silk Society, giving outstanding debts, total assets being £393 · 7 · 6½, for which the Treasurer of American Philosophical Society is to receipt and account.

F. Bailey's bill of £13 · 10 for printing 200 copies of the Biddle oration. Mr. Biddle asked how the 200 copies were disposed of; and was authorized to draw on the Treasurer to settle the bill.

1783. *July* 11.

Treasurer reported paying Mr. Biddle the balance after "debiting him for raw silk purchased by him from the late Silk Society."

Paper on a machine for ascertaining a ship's way on the sea.

1783. *July* 19. (9 present.)

Lot in Fifth Street near Arch, 40′ × 48′; Committee to confer with the owners about a purchase. Special meeting appointed, "& notice to the members that money is to be disposed of."

Tuesday, July 22. Not enough members present to act.

1783. *Sept.* 26. (10 present.)

Com. reported the price of the desired lot too high.

Letter from the French Minister to Rev^d D^r. White that the King would accept the Orrery, and "by his Royal Patronage excite an Emulation between the Literary Societies of France and the United States."—Ordered that D^r. White . . . acknowledge . . . "the high sense the Society entertain of the Honor done them by his Majesty," &c.

Hopkinson's letter on a serpent in a horse's eye.

Count de Gebeline [*sic*], President of the Museum of Paris, thanks the Society for his election, and sends the four first Vols. [*sic*] of the primitive World.

L'Abbé Soulavie's Nat. Hist. S. of France, 6 Vols. presented by Franklin.

The Com. on Sale of House in State House Yard reported an offer of Eighteen pounds (£18).—*Sale ordered.*

Willing's lot in Third Street.—Com. appointed to enquire of M^r. Willing whether he will let the Society have it upon ground rent and upon what terms. If unsuccessful "they are desired to endeavor to find some other which will be suitable for the Society's purposes."

Meetings to be regularly advertized in the Thursday's newspaper.

1783. *Oct.* 17. (8 present.)

Letter from John Hyacinthe de Magellan, accompanying a donation and asking some questions respecting the Society.

Godefroy's engravings of the Revolution in books*—"Ordered, that receipt of usefull communications be acknowledged in the newspapers from time to time by the Secretaries, & that they revise the minutes & in the first publication mention the presents received for some time past and particularly those of the Abbé de Fontana."

Treasurer ordered to write to M^r. Combe for the Society's

* Placed in charge of Curators. See note at end of meeting.

money in his hands; or for his bond for the amount, with interest; threatening suit.

Treasurer ordered to sue Jas. Rutland for debt.

Letter of Elias Boudinot, Pres. of Congress.

Ordered:—A reply to Mr. Magellan's letter to be signed by Dr. Bond, V. P.

1783. *Nov.* 7. (11 present.)

Com. on *Powel's lot** [no mention of its appointment previously], declined it for reasons approved by the Society.

Treasurer ordered to pay W. Redegers £3 ·· 11 ·· 6.

Mr. Hopkinson requested to collect the communications made to the Society up to date; and the Secs. to publish such of them as they thought worthy of publication.

Com. to purchase a lot ordered "to continue their endeavors for obtaining a suitable one."

Dr. Smith requested to "send the different certificates & any other papers belonging to the Society, in his possession, as soon as possible."

1783. *Nov.* 21. (13 present.)

Janitor willing to accept £6 per annum.† Agreed to.

"Cases containing the Library and books of Natural History," were "put under the care of Mr. Rittenhouse untill a more convenient place can be procured."

Com. on Lot reported one in 5th Street belonging to Mr. Jno. Dunlap, to be got for $1000.—Secs. ordered to "give publick notice that money will be disposed of at the next meeting."

Rittenhouse on the late discovered Planet.

Improved method of quilling a harpsichord.

* No previous mention of this name; perhaps it was the lot referred to in minutes of July 19, 1783.

† This, of course, was Pennsylvania currency; £1 = $2.66⅔.

1783. *Dec.* 5. (*At the University.*) (12 present.)

Batavian Phil. Soc. sent 6 Vols. of Trans.

"Mr. Hopkinson offers to sell to the Society a Lot of Ground on Arch street near the Observatory 40 feet front & 100 feet deep, clear of Incumbrances for the sum of one thousand dollars."

"Secs. ordered to give publick notice that moneys are to be disposed of at next meeting."

Rittenhouse (Librarian) reported that he had removed the Library (in part) and the Cabinet to his own house.

"He is requested to continue his endeavors to collect the remainder of the books."

Librarian ordered to deliver Dr. Smith a Vol. of the Transactions upon application.

Treasurer ordered to render his account before next annual election.

1783. *Dec.* 12. (*At the University.*) (10 present.)

An address to his Excellency General Washington was agreed upon in the words following, viz.:

SIR: The American Philosophical Society which boasts the name of your Excellency in the List of their members are happy in this Opportunity of presenting their Congratulations on the Establishment of Peace.

While they anticipate the Influence of this Event on the important Object of their Institution, they contemplate with Pleasure that the Arts and Sciences, those Friends to Liberty and virtue, will not only join in the Tribute universally paid to your merits, but will transmit them to an admiring Posterity.—May you enjoy all possible Felicity in the Retreat to private Life which remained an additional Source of Lustre to your Character, and to which you are followed by the Love of your grateful Country.

By Order and in Behalf of the Society.

PHILADELPHIA, Decr 12th, 1783.

Jon. Smith on a Water Cement.

1783. *Dec.* 19. (*At the University.*) (13 present.)

Additional laws and regulations drafted by Hopkinson.

Hopkinson offers *the whole* lot in 5th Street, 40′ × 306′, for £600* ($1000 down; the rest on interest).

* This, of course, was Pennsylvania currency; £1 = $2.66⅔.